

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: RATIONALIZATION/SPECIALIZATION: LINES OF COMMUNICATION

THERE FOLLOWS BELOW THE TEXT OF THE REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP BY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL FOR DEFENSE SUPPORT ON HOST NATION SUPPORT OF WARTIME LINES OF COMMUNICATION.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. THIS COMPLEX STUDY IS PROGRESSING STEADILY THROUGH THE FIRST STAGES OF THE PROCEDURE LAID DOWN IN PARAGRAPHS 14, 15 AND 16 OF THE PREVIOUS REPORT BY THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE IN PERMANENT SESSION (DPC/D(75)10).

2. IN PARTICULAR, UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE PLANNING BOARD FOR EUROPEAN INLAND SURFACE TRANSPORT (PBEIST), THE AD HOC GROUP ON LINES OF COMMUNICATION IN A NATO-RECOGNIZED PERIOD OF EMERGENCY HAS BEEN ADDRESSING THE ASSESSMENT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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BOTH CIVIL AND MILITARY REQUIREMENTS AND THEIR COMPARISON WITH THE AVAILABLE RECEPTION AND INLAND TRANSPORT CAPACITIES.

3. THE INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE MILITARY REQUIREMENTS

WAS COMPLETED BY BOTH USER AND HOST NATIONS BY THE END OF FEBRUARY 1975.

4. THE ASSESSMENT OF THE CIVIL REQUIREMENTS BY BOTH HOST AND USER NATIONS IS UNDER WAY. THE COMPARISON OF TOTAL REQUIREMENTS, BOTH MILITARY AND CIVIL, WITH AVAILABLE PORT AND INLAND TRANSPORT CAPACITIES HAS ALREADY STARTED, WHEREVER PRACTICABLE, ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE SO FAR. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE, AT THIS STAGE, TO MAKE ANY FORECAST OF THE DATE ON WHICH THIS PART OF THE STUDY WILL BE COMPLETED, BECAUSE THE ASSESSMENT OF THE CIVIL REQUIREMENTS IS EXTREMELY COMPLEX AND ALSO BECAUSE, FROM AN EXAMINATION OF THE INPUTS RECEIVED FROM NATIONS SO FAR, IT APPEARS THAT:

(A) DIFFERENT ASSUMPTIONS HAVE BEEN USED BY THE NATIONS WHEN MAKING AN ASSESSMENT OF THEIR CIVIL REQUIREMENTS AND OF THE RECEPTION CAPABILITIES. FOR INSTANCE, DIVERGENCIES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED IN:

- THE ASSESSMENT OF THE AMOUNT OF GOODS ARRIVING AT OR TRANSITING THROUGH THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES (IN SOME CASES, THE SAME AMOUNT HAS BEEN ASSUMED AS IN PEACETIME, IN OTHER CASES, EITHER LESS OR MORE);

- THE ASSESSMENT OF THE RECEPTION CAPABILITIES AFTER THE START OF THE HOSTILITIES (IN SOME CASES, AN INCREASE IN CAPABILITY HAS BEEN ASSUMED, IN OTHER CASES, A DECREASE). THE PBEIS AD HOC GROUP HAS UNDERTAKEN TO ELIMINATE THESE DIVERGENCIES BEFORE A FINAL ASSESSMENT IS MADE, BUT THIS WILL CERTAINLY CHANGE THE RESULTS ALREADY SUBMITTED.

(B) FURTHER STUDIES BY MORE SPECIALIZED BODIES OF SOME SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THIS ISSUE ARE REQUIRED (E.G. VEHICLE TRANSPORT BY FLATCARS, MILITARY BULK POL MOVEMENT AND CERTAIN ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL RAILWAY TRANSPORT).

5. IN THE MEANTIME, AFCENT IS PROCEEDING WITH A CO-ORDINATED REVIEW OF ALL THE MILITARY REQUIREMENTS, TOGETHER WITH THE ASSUMPTIONS, SUBMITTED BY THE CENTRAL REGION NATIONS WITH A VIEW TO COMPARING THEM WITH THE OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS STEMMING FROM THE EMERGENCY DEFENCE PLANS AS WELL AS CONFIDENTIAL

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FROM ITS "FLEXIBILITY STUDY". HERE TOO, IT APPEARS THAT THERE ARE DIVERGENCIES IN THE NATIONAL ASSUMPTIONS ON WHICH THE REQUIREMENTS ARE BASED AND THESE WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THIS REVIEW.

6. THE STUDY WILL THEN PROCEED TO THE REMAINDER OF THE PLAN SET OUT IN THE PREVIOUS REPORT.

END TEXT.BRUCE

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